The Centaurian Sentinel™

Dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series Babylon 5.

Data File 26 • October 1996 **BABYLON 5 EDITION**

SCANNING ANDREA THOMPSON'S MIND

Conducted at BABCOM '96, London, England, June 23, 1995, by Tom Bateman.

Boy, its amazing what a press pass can do for you! One must take advantage of such opportunities when presented, and I certainly did. I caught the lovely Andrea Thompson in between stage appearances and, to my delight, she was eager to talk with ***The Centaurian Sentinel***. Despite recovering from some bad bacon (so, I guess we can't blame it on the cows can we? Sorry England.), Andrea gave me a very candid and eye-opening interview. It's no wonder that her husband, Jerry Doyle, finds her so fascinating. Having met and talked with both of them, I can tell you that no other two people on the planet are more perfectly matched. I'm glad they liked the cigars I got them.

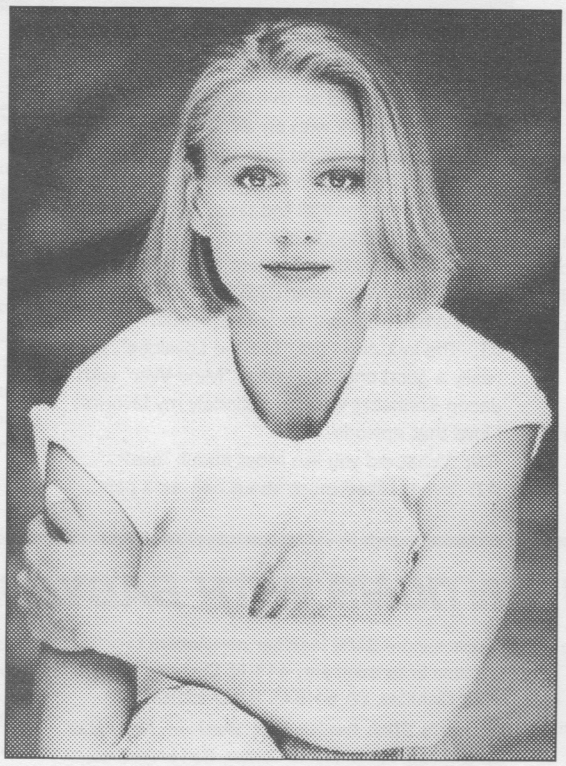
(Oh, I'm sorry Claudia, I didn't know you smoked, I promise to make it up to you. I swear!)

Special thanks goes to Reyna Jenkins and Stargazer Productions for allowing me to conduct this interview in the midst of all that mayhem.

The Centaurian Sentinel: Question #1 - Why did you leave the show?

Andrea Thompson: I felt that at that point, I had put in two years and I was waiting for something more to happen with the [Talia] storylines. I don't want to sound like a whiner or a complainer, because that's the last impression I want to give. The episodes that I "had" were fantastic, but the part, in with the cast and crew, was more "peripheral" and not as much of an integral part. [And] there were times in which I would spend months not working [on B5], and for me, as an actor, I like to work. I like to keep busy and the down-time is the hard time for me, and that's the only thing I dislike about my career choice, is that I have tremendous long periods of down-time.

When I'm not "working", I'm auditioning and going out for other jobs, but sometimes once you get a job, there's not a heck of a lot to do. I'd be out for five or six episodes at a time and I got very frustrated with it and I talked with them about it after the first year and they reassured me, but it turned out I got even less time in the second year. At that point, I decided that it was not meant to be. I know the whole story can't be about "me", and that's not what I was asking; but I wanted to be more part of it all, and it just didn't seem like that was going to materialize. So I asked them to release me from my contract and they very graciously did. They could've made it very difficult for me, but they were very nice about it.



Andrea Thompson
BABYLON 5's Second Commercial Telepath, Talia Winters (2258-2259)

CS: Where would you have liked to have seen the character go? What would you have wanted to do with Talia, had you stayed with the show?

AT: In a sense, I almost wish they had made me "evil" earlier on. Although it might have cut down on the overall time that I had, it would've been a more "rich" character to bite into. I also wish they had really let the relationship between Ivanova and Talia develop out. The same with Talia and Garibaldi, whether it was consummated or not, at least that it would go somewhere. It seemed so often, that we would get to a certain point and then it would just stop, it would disappear. I know a lot of audience members and fans were frustrated with it too.

I [also] had very little interaction with any of the Minbari, the Centauri, the Narns. . . . I felt very "isolated". I wish they had let her relationships develop more. Perhaps something more involved with the Psi Corps, I wish Jason's gift had been further explored; there were a lot of things. On one hand, I wished I had stuck around, and on the other hand, I don't regret leaving; it's been good for me.

CS: What projects are you working on now?

AT: Well, I finished a movie called *A Gun, A Car, A Blonde* with John Ritter, Kay Lenz and Billy Bob Thornton. It's a detective thriller, it bounces back from forties black and white to present day and it's a great love-story and should be out this fall. It was written by Tom Epperson and his partner Stephanie Aimes. Tom also wrote *Family Thing*, which recently came out with Robert Duvall and James Earl Jones. Previously, he wrote a movie called *One False Move*, which is a brilliant piece of film.

As soon as I wrapped BABYLON 5, I went out and found new representation, started the movie, got the offer for Joe Dante's *Osiris Chronicles*, but that fell through. Then the day after that, I started *JAG*; so I really haven't stopped, and that's nice for me, I like to be busy.

CS: Will you be returning to *JAG*?

AT: I hope so, they're completely retooling the show. They've let Tracy Needham go, they're taking the "Meg" character out of the show.

CS: Oh, I liked her.

AT: I liked her too, and she's also just the greatest gal, and then so is he [David James Elliot]. I'm very lucky to have worked with them, he's just a very down-to-earth, loves his wife, loves his daughter; and she and her husband are very close. We all had parties together. There's talk of bringing back Andrea Parker, who was in the series pilot. I don't know where I stand with it yet, but I will know when I get back.

CS: How did working with Jerry compare to living with Jerry?

AT: It's pretty much the same, there's a lot of give and take. I always feel that I am on equal footing with him, and I get back as much as I give and then some; and that's the way it is at home too. The only place where we've had trouble is writing together, because we both are so opinionated. Not really fights, but we get to a place where we both think we know what's best and we both like to run the show.

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MORE IRREVERENCE FROM JERRY DOYLE - page 3

ANDREA *continued from page 1*

CS: Do you mind if I ask how you and Jerry met?

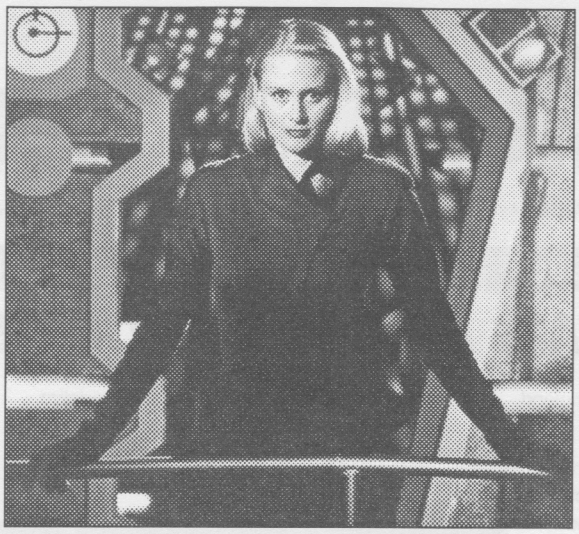
AT: We met at a birthday party of a mutual friend at a restaurant. At that point in time, I was really very cynical and I didn't want to be involved with anybody. I had just gotten a divorce and he was going through the process himself. So we started out as friends, which is really what helped it out, because if we had launched into a relationship right away, it [probably] would've turned into a "rebound romance", which everybody has after they break-up. We became good friends and I think, more than anything else, that is what probably determines if a marriage is going to last, because passion goes up and down; [you have] hard times, good times, bad times. If you find that you "really" like each other, you've got a shot.

CS: Jerry had mentioned to me his possible "political" aspirations in the future, what do you think about that?

AT: Hah! he knows I'm totally against it. I think politics is the biggest "crock of sh*t" of all. I don't think that any one individual is going to go in, make a difference, and change the system. Maybe that's a cynical point of view, but it's how I feel. I've made it plain to him that I'm not at all interested in that. I'd like to be active in the community and really make a difference that way. I think most politicians are just talkers, a lot of hot air.

CS: How did working on BABYLON 5 compare to other shows you've worked on?

AT: It was very different because of the comradery that existed on this show. I'm close to the people that I work with on *JAG*, but not in the same way as it was on B5. The cast that I joined on *Falcon Crest* was a long running cast, with many changes all the time. So it wasn't really close, although everyone got along well. This is definitely the sweetest cast, and I'll know these people long after BABYLON 5 is over.



Andrea Thompson wishes that her character was portrayed as an "evil" earlier on in the series.

CS: What was your favorite episode?

AT: The last one I did, "Divided Loyalties", was really a good one, but I think "Mind War" with Jason Ironheart was my definitely my favorite. I love that episode.

CS: What did you like most about Talia?

AT: What I liked most about her, as a performer, was that I had never before gotten a chance to play anybody who was that vulnerable or that fragile. That had been a constant frustration for me over the years, that I often wasn't considered for characters like that. So it was a great opportunity.

CS: Is Hollywood bad about that kind of type-casting?

AT: Oh, absolutely! If you play the "bitch" you get stuck being the "bitch" for the rest of your life. If you play the "mother", they see you only as a "mother" and think you can't be sexy, as though mothers aren't sexy, which doesn't make any sense at all, because how do they think you became a mother in the first place? It's ridiculous. So, yeah, you do get boxed in and its a constant fight to make your way out and expand and do something that interests you.

CS: How do you feel about meeting the fans of BABYLON 5, since it is obviously a different experience from other television shows?

AT: I love meeting science fiction fans. Other fans are pretty forthcoming about what they like about the show and I get stopped on the street every once in a while; [but] the science fiction fans are a breed apart. They're completely different, they're very warm, they very involved, they know everything about the show. I take it as a compliment, because it means were doing something right and they're so genuinely interested in it.

Tom Bateman

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS WITH BABYLON 5 PERSONNEL

Following are conventions that will be featuring BABYLON 5 personalities. Be aware that guest changes may occur due to last minute problems – unless a guest is confirmed to attend they may not have a commitment to appear! For a quick response to any inquiries send an SASE.

Atlanta StarCon & Comics, November 1-3, Marriott Century Center Hotel, Atlanta, GA. Guests include Michael O'Hare. Contact: 482 Gardner Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281.

United Fan Con VI, November 1-3, Sheraton Monarch Place Hotel, Springfield, MA. Guests include Jeff Conaway. Contact: United Fan Can, 500 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468; (617) 986-TREK; http://www.pcnet.com/~alanr/ufc.html .

Assimilation '96, November 15-18, Britannia Hotel, Daventry, Northampton, UK. Jason Carter is scheduled to appear. Contact: Assimilation, 77 Holyrood Avenue, South Harrow, Middx, HA2 8UD, United Kingdom; http://www.ibmpcug.co.uk/~assim/.

Star Trek/Babylon 5 – The Face-Off of the Millennium, November 16-17, The Pasadena Center, Pasadena, CA. Creation's 10th anniversary salute to *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and First Annual BABYLON 5 convention. B5 guests are to include Bruce Boxleitner, Peter Jurasik, Andreas Katsulas, Michael O'Hare, Mira Furlan, Bill Mumy, Stephen Furst, Richard Biggs, JMS, and Mojo. For details send a SASE (one per convention) to Creation Entertainment, 411 N. Central Ave., Suite 300, Glendale, CA 91203; 818/409-0960.

Starlog's 20th Anniversary Reunion, November 23-24, Nob Hill Masonic Center, San Francisco, CA. Peter Jurasik, Bill Mumy, and Ron Thornton are scheduled. Contact: Creation Entertainment, 411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 300, Glendale, CA 91203; 818/409-0960.

LosCon, November 24-26, Burbank,CA. There is a possibility that JMS will be attending.

Visions '96, November 29 – December 1, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, IL. Claudia Christian and Jerry Doyle are scheduled to appear. Contact: Visions, Highland Park, IL 60035-1202; 847/882-1174; 708/405-9461; fergus@areaplg2.corp.mot.com .

Starcon '96, December 7-8, Atlantic Community College, Mays Landing, NJ. Bruce Boxleitner is scheduled to appear. Contact: Starcon, P.O. Box 1011, Pomona, NJ 08240; 609-641-3322.

Stellar Occasion, December 27-29, Dallas, TX. Walter Koenig and Ed Wasser are scheduled to appear. Contact: phoenix@cyberramp.net .

The Centaurian Sentinel **Data File No. 26**

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JERRY DOYLE, THAT'S "MISTER" GARIBALDI!

Conducted in Jerry Doyle's trailer at Babylonian Productions, January 11,1996, by Pam Buck and Tom Bateman.

Editor's Notes: This is a very candid and uncensored interview. Part 1 of this interview was published in issue 25. Comments in parenthesis are Pam's.

Well, I didn't want my buddy Pam to get all the credit for this great interview so I had to jump in here for a second. I had noticed that my interviewing style had gotten boring so I needed something to spice it up a bit, that's when I brought in Pam. Little did I know that she would leave nothing sacred, but that's what I needed, I guess. I wonder if fans get tired of those "same old questions", because I know I do. This chat with Jerry was definitely "different" and I hope it is as entertaining and eye-opening for you to read as it was for me to listen to and edit.

I want everyone to know that Jerry is great for dinner parties. He's opinionated and he's not afraid of ANY subject, no matter how off-the-wall (PAM!!). His blunt honesty may piss some people off, but hey, the man says what he means, and means what he says, you can't ask for anything else.

We begin where we left off. . .

Tom Bateman: What do you think of the current presidential race? (Take into consideration this interview was early January.)

Jerry Doyle: 260 million people in this country and that's the best you could find? If the Republican party doesn't think you are their man or woman, you're not going to get the nomination. You may win popular vote, but you won't win the electoral vote. So you almost have to play party politics before you get into politics.

TB: What did you think of Colin Powell?

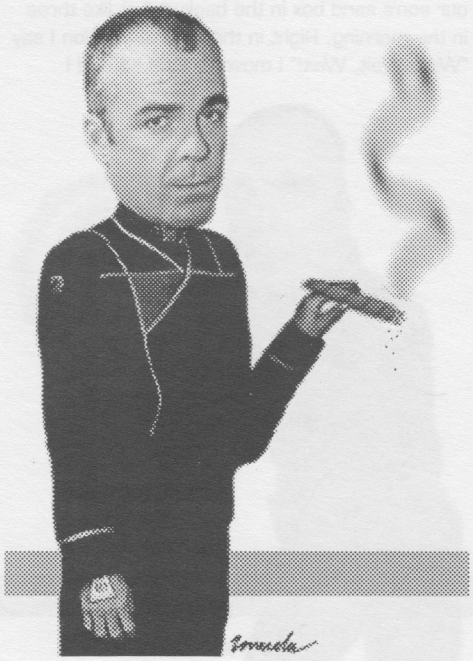
JD: Well, he would have had my vote regardless of what ticket he ran under. I would have voted for him as a Democrat and I'm a long standing Republican. So is everyone in my family.

He would have gotten my vote because he seemed like the best person for the job.

TB: Do you think a third party is the way to go?

JD: I don't think a third party is the way to go. I don't think anyone party is going to be everything you believe in. You could have a third party, fourth party, keg party, all night party. It's not going to be all things to all people. It's who has the most money. Most people don't expect to be billionaires or even multi-millionaires, but they can be, if you save (money). There is no incentive to save in this country. If I say: "You have $10,000 a year and whatever that makes over the course of your lifetime you'll never have to pay taxes on it, that's your retirement, that's your nest egg", you are going to find a way to save money. So when you are 55, 65, 75 years old, you'll have a sh*t load of money, a big pile of "f**ck-you" money.

[There's] nothing better than a pile of "f**ck-you" money, because you can tell people "f**ck-you". And when people know that you can walk, that's when they will treat you better. When the government shuts down, and in three days you have someone saying "I'm not going to be able to put food on the table", why? You've been working for 20 years and you don't have any f**cking money saved? What's wrong with you? Save some f**cking money! That way when the government shuts down and your boss says "Well,



we are going to have to lay you off or you are going to have to come in and work for no pay." you say, "No I don't think so. I'm going on vacation because I have this big pile of "f**ck- you" money and you know what, F**CK YOU!" Okay, final questions.

Pam Buck: What about the capital gains tax?

JD: Capital gains? Oh, that's gone [if I was in office]. Flat tax; how much did you make last year? send me 15%, next. We spent $30 billion last year preparing taxes, kinda waste of money if you asked me.

PB: Well, I got money back.

JD: You got money back? Well, don't you think they held too much out to begin with? and they got to use it for 15 months, interest free? It's a loan to the government that you own. I get up at six in the morning, I get home at nine o'clock at night, I memorize my lines, I hit the marks, I wear make-up all day, you don't. [And] for just being part of my little world you get 50%, I don't think so. You want to come and work with me, you want to eat burgers off the lunch truck, that's fine. Then maybe you can take a little bit more, but as it stands right now, half of everything I make and you have nothing to do with it. To me, that strikes me as totally absurd.

TB: How do you think BABYLON 5 deals with the issues?

JD: This show [B5], I think, shows consequences more so than other shows.

Other shows will show violence and sex, and that's all great and I love watching it too, but violence just for the sake of violence is strictly gratuitous. Violence with consequences, what do our actions have as far as long term ramifications? We are still dealing with issues in the year 2260 that we are dealing with today. Terrorism, personal problems, racism, relationships, alcoholism, drug addiction. What are the consequences of these things long term? So if you take a problem and put it before the viewing public as an issue and how these issues resolve themselves or not, and what their consequences and ramifications are throughout society, you might get something out of it; it makes you think. Mind Wiping? is it a good idea or not? if you had the capability today?

Would Ted Bundy have been Mind Wiped and serving society? We brought up the death penalty, the electric chair, my line was "I think we should use electric bleachers," which I personally don't have a problem with. I mean, it's an absurd concept, but what if it was a possibility. Pay-per-view executions? Would you pay $19.95 to see a murderer get whacked? I would.

TB: I would too.

PB: Probably not. Sorry.

(This of course brought a look of confusion from both Tom and Jerry. I had to explain that while I was in favor of the death penalty, I just wouldn't want to see in graphic detail the death of someone else.)

JD: Think about it, Jeffrey Dahmer, Richard Allen Davis – the guy who kidnapped and murdered Polly Klaas, Susan Smith – killed her two kids, rolled them into a lake. You wouldn't pay $19.95 to see her get whacked? You see, if somebody f**cked with my kid, there wouldn't be the law, there wouldn't be any trial, there wouldn't be police. I would hunt them down and I would kill them. It would be over, that simple. No matter what my personal consequences were. To me, stealing the innocence of a child, the life of a child, is the ultimate crime. Wide-eyed, free-spirited, enthusiastic, energetic, got the whole world in front of them and some pervert comes along and wants to f**ck them? I would hunt him or her down and it would be a slow, painful, torturous, gratifying death, I would love every moment of it. Not from a standpoint that I like to watch this sh*t happen, but it would be my vindication; and that to me is the only way to make some kind of amends for what they did.

I think we've raised our tolerance for crime. What used to be wrong, is now at a higher level. For instance, the Michael Fay case in Singapore, who was caned for supposedly vandalizing cars. Is it severe, the caning? Well, yeah. Is he going to do it again? He's not going to take out a spray can and do those cars anymore, his ass hurts! and he's embarrassed. Then he came back and had to go to rehab for sniffing butane out of lighters, so he's really a stable, upstanding member of society. Now they've got the chain gangs back in Arizona and Alabama, I think it's a great idea. Break rocks, pick up trash. Prisoner's

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JERRY *continued from page 3*

rights? like 'fair war', 'jumbo shrimp', 'military intelligence', no such thing. Chain gangs? Bring 'em on!

Ah . . . I can't wait to see this interview. I've pissed off just about everyone now.

PB: It's pretty easy to piss people off.

JD: Well, people are too sensitive. Hypersensitive.

PB: There was some negative feedback about some jokes that I included in my review of Stellar Occasion in Texas.

JD: Oh yeah, you put in some jokes about using someone's back for dip.

PB: YOU told the joke!

JD: Take in context. We're sitting at Hooter's, women have their "breasts" out, we're drinking beer. What, are we supposed to sit there and discuss religion?

At what point do we become so politically correct that movies don't get made any more that were made at one time, jokes don't get told, stories don't get written, books don't get distributed, that the Boy Scouts are no longer the Boy Scouts, but the Boy/Girl Scouts. How politically correct do we have to get so that we all become the same? The main difference between men and women and groups, organizations, religions, societies and cultures is that we are different. We've become so watered down that individuality is being lost. Do we want everyone to be the same? So that the only difference between men and women is going to be that we have different sex organs? The differences between men and women are beautiful differences, sometimes they're tedious, sometimes they cause confrontations.

The differences between Irish and English and Italian and Spanish and Mexican are what makes for a colorful nation; but now we are hyphenating and fragmenting. What's wrong with just being an American?

All of a sudden we are "this" kind of American or "that" kind of American. Now I've found out that after the O.J. trial that I'm a European-American.

PB: I don't have a hyphen in my nationality.

JD: I don't have a hyphen either. We are a society of victims. "I did this because of this.". Oh yeah, well get over it. I'm so sick and tired of people not taking responsibility for things. It's always someone else's fault.

(Okay, we'd all been bummed out by politics and the death penalty stuff, so it was time to ask some of the sillier questions.)

PB: Pajamas or in-the-buff?

JD: Oh, in the BUFF. No pajamas. Right sheets, good comforter, nice mattress, you don't need pajamas.

PB: But what if there is an earthquake?

JD: Earthquake? Then you run outside naked. And if the house is collapsed I don't think it's going to be my first concern; unless it's cold.

(Then I started to get shy, and I started to stutter. Jerry said, "Don't think about 'em [the questions] Just ask 'em.")

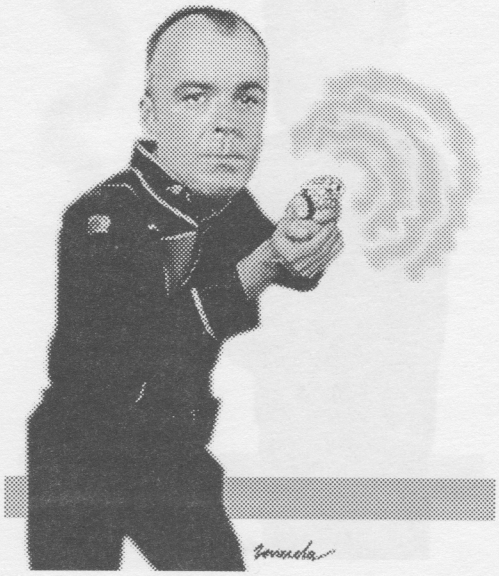
PB: Top or bottom?

JD: Top or bottom what? What . . . I'm only allowed one shot a night? I try to cover all points of the globe in one evening. I'm not limiting myself to the northern or southern hemisphere.

(Oh now I was on a roll, not afraid to ask any question, no matter how daring.)

PB: Wildest place you've umm. ummm, you know . . . done it? and DON'T say this couch!

JD: (contemplating) Wildest place. . . ? (looking at the couch) Well, that too; and it doesn't matter where you sit in this room. If you do it right, it's all wild. As a parent, the funniest place was our son's sand box in the backyard at like three in the morning. Right in the heat of passion I say "Wait, Wait, Wait!" I moved a little bit and I



removed a plastic boat from my rear end. It was stuck under there and somewhat uncomfortable. So that would probably be the funniest experience. In the sand box. Those who have kids will understand that.

PB: Oh, I couldn't put in the Koala joke because this is a family newsletter.

JD: That's a good joke. In a group that was sitting around blah, blah, blah, it's like come on! It's a JOKE! It's not directed at any one person, it's a joke! The concept of a joke has gone by the wayside. I saw *Blazing Saddles* not too recently and I thought to myself "this movie would not get made today the way that it is," because stuff they talk about would not be allowed by today's society. There was one line where they were interviewing people for a gang, and they asked "List your qualifications," and the guy says "Rape, murder and rape, they say 'You said rape twice.' and he says "I like rape." Is it a funny thing? rape? no, those guys should be castrated and thrown away too, but it was a joke. Someone asked me what kind of project I'd like to do, and I said I'd like to do a pirate movie without the rape. I like the pillaging, but I like consensual sex and pillaging, that's how politically correct things have gotten. Do you make fun of rape? no, it's obviously not a funny thing, but *Blazing Saddles* is not reality, it's a silly movie. Okay, back to the show stuff.

PB: I forgot what show we were talking about.

TB: How do you think the character has evolved since the pilot?

JD: I think he's become more and more defined. I think he's become more comfortable around his fellow workers. I think he has become more appreciative of them, of their importance, and the relationships that he has with them. I think he really cherishes that he has a "family" that he can trust and rely upon, not totally, but more so than he's ever done before. He's searching for stability in his life and I think he's finding it. If you look at him as a chief of security, every week something is "happening", there's always something going wrong. If it was a perfect Babylon 5, and a perfect chief of security, then we wouldn't have a lot to talk about.

Just everyone walking around going, "What a beautiful day."

(Now would have to move on the more in-depth questions regarding the character of Garibaldi. We were having such a good time, I'd nearly forgotten what show we were talking about. Tom was next to bat with his question.)

TB: What kinds of things would you like to see happen with your character?

JD: I don't really know at this point. The one relationship I wanted to see happen, that should have happened, didn't. So, if there is a relationship for the character fine, if not, that's fine too.

That was the one area I thought was going, was working, there's something going on between the two characters [Garibaldi and Talia] and for whatever reason it didn't happen. Whatever they write, I do. I like the character, but as for a major change in the character I don't see anything that really needs to be done, or that I think should be done, but who knows? They come up with trippy stuff all the time, so who knows what they've got going on?'

PB: You could be dead next week.

JD: Sure. Gone. Garibaldi dead. You never know. You just don't know. I enjoy it while I can, because you could be gone. It's a ensemble cast. If they decide to write you out, your gone. It's that simple. People say, 'Ah, you could never leave the show', but there are 10 or 12 members of the cast.

TB: The Internet always seems to list you as the one most likely to die.

JD: Yeah, I've gotten a few letters about that. Rumors I'm being written out of the show, . . . that I'm dying, . . . I'm being replaced.

PB: . . . that Garibaldi is gay.

JD: (smiling) Yeah . . . because I'm always hanging out with Franklin, cooking meals for him.

Sheridan's gay, Garibaldi's gay. . . . Until they tell me I'm dead, I'll keep showing up, saying my lines, cashing my checks. That's what it's about. If they decided to get rid of the character, then they decide to get rid of the character. It's been a great run. I've enjoyed it. So if it ends, it ends.

(Now, since Tom and I are concerned about Jerry's financial well-being, we wanted to know how he's done in other jobs.)

TB: How does this job compare to other jobs you've had?

JD: It's the easiest job in the world. Show up in the morning, someone asks you what you want for breakfast. Someone puts your make-up on, someone does your hair.

Doesn't take that long for me. I wear some-

one else's clothes, I say someone else's lines, and if I f**ck up I get to do it again. I work with 150 creative, talented, exciting, upbeat people. We have fun with each other. Make fun of each other. Joke with each other. It's a great job. The people with the hard jobs are the crew, the people you don't see. Throwing lights around, gear and heavy stuff. They're working. We're sitting out here in my motor-less home, with a pull out bed and bathroom, and all the comforts of home so to speak, and they're in there busting their ass. All day. Hot, sweaty, dirty and they do it so well and they make it fun. At times it may be tedious. Things are going wrong, it's running late, you've been here for twelve hours and you have to do your close up in the last three minutes, you have to find ways to make it fresh. For the most part the job is a breeze. Pretentious actors . . . there's really no place for them. Actors who flip out, storm off the set, pitch fits . . . just shut up and say your lines, it's not brain surgery and you're not curing cancer.

There's nothing on this show that I won't do, unless it violates something that borders on prejudice. Hitting a woman [for instance], [I'm] not gonna do it, [it's] not even up for discussion; you wanna do it, get someone else, it's not going to be me. There are certain things that you just don't do, I don't do in life, and I certainly don't feel that I should do on screen. It's not just hitting a woman, it's hitting a guy. If it's just to look macho, no. Even if the guy is Lorenzo Lamas. In life, I'm not going to stand toe-to-toe with a guy going "I'll f**ck you up!", "Okay, fine, you can beat me up, go tell your friends, I'm going home."; what does it solve? what does it prove? Now if you f**ck with my wife or my kid, you may be able beat me up and take me out, but you will know that you've been in a battle.

Most things on this show fly without any problems, the writers know what they're doing. they know what the story is, they know what the audience wants to see. This year though, it's "writer", not "writers". It's Joe's story, it's in his brain. Sometimes it's easier to do, then to have to redo someone else's writing just to get it to where you wanted it in the first place. You can make suggestions.

TB: Does that work?

JD: Sometimes, if he believes that it is logical and realistic and a reasonable deal, then he'll go with it. If it does make sense, he's open to it. He wants to make the characters and the stories more believable too, more real, more edge. So if you have an insight into your character that maybe he's not seeing, I think it is your responsibility to bring that up and it is his responsibility to act on it or not.

PB: What's up with the hair?

JD: After we wrapped last year, Andrea and I were having a few adult beverages and I asked her to shave my head. We got down to the Gerber Baby fuzz, and I liked it and she loved it; and if she loves it, I love it. They asked me to grow it in a little bit for lighting purposes.

(Whew! After typing this with one hand, I realize now how very long this interview is.)

PB: What do you have coming up for the hiatus?

JD: I have a few things kicking around. A few projects on the production side myself. I got a convention in Australia first part of May, Babcom '96 in England. You have to be able to ride out the down times. When your lucky enough to be on a series, and I do think luck has a lot to do with it, and timing and talent, it's an opportunity to expand or pad your [money] reserves rather than adopt a lifestyle; because the life style could end very quickly. You may have a five year series, but it's still a thirty year mortgage.

And with that, it's the end of this lengthy interview. Many thanks to Jerry for his time, JMS for not throwing us off the set, and Tom Bateman, Dennis Bateman, and Mike Zmuda for giving me the opportunity to do this interview.

Pam Buck a.k.a. B-D Banzai

I hope everyone got a sense of who the man behind Garibaldi is, because that's what I felt. Thanks to JMS, John Copeland and my tag-team partner Pam; and special thanks to Jerry for letting us hang out in your cozy trailer, a little cramped, but still cozy.

Pam and Jerry (sounds like an ice cream company?), this was a bitch to edit, I'll have you know; but it was worth every hour. Let's do it again!

Tom Bateman

The Inquisitor

"Abso-fraggin-lutely," said the captain rather cutely
While she gazed at him astutely in the garden known as Zen.
In their hearts a hint was stirring, as of something softly purring,
Purring gently, love occurring, 'tween the captain and Delenn
In the garden known as Zen.

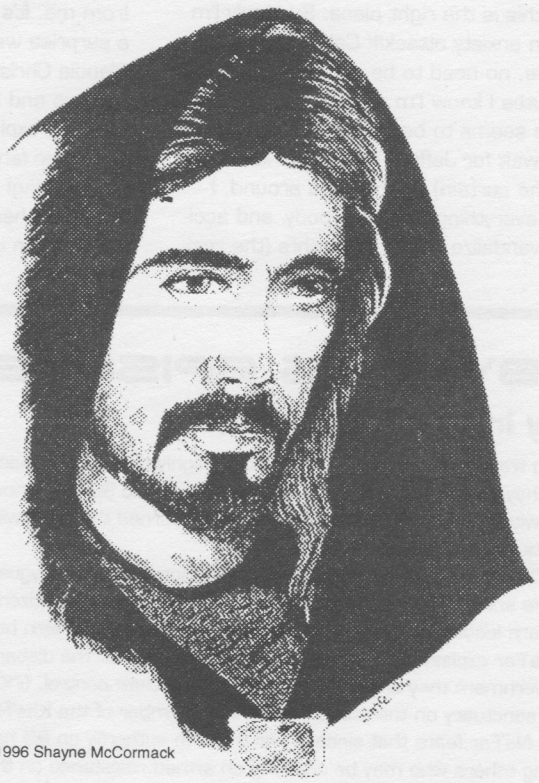
Then upon that lonely station, port of call for many nations,
Kosh the Vorlon grew impatient and decided on a test.
Kosh would test if they were ready, if allegiance now was steady,
If Delenn and John already were prepared to pass the test
Which was failed by all the rest.

Came a transport through the jumpgate, a Vorlon ship with cargo great.
Impatiently they had to wait, wait beside the airlock door.
Suddenly there came a rapping, louder, louder came the tapping,
Jack the Ripper's cane was tapping, tapping on the airlock floor:
Jack the Ripper back once more.

Inquisitors when they are present often can be quite unpleasant
As Delenn began to resent, screaming on the chamber floor.
Jack the Ripper kept on asking, for Delenn he was a-tasking,
Tasking her with constant asking "Who are you? " and nothing more.
Only that and nothing more.

Then the captain came up striding, to the room they were hiding,
Sure that evil was abiding in the chamber Gray Nineteen.
"Foul one!" cried he, "Thing of evil! Surely you are of the devil!
"How the Vorlons could have leveled you is something quite obscene,
"Something that is much too mean."

Now it was the captain's turn to feel the Ripper's cane that burned,
Hanging in the room he learned his instincts had been right.
Both of them said they could take it, die unknown if that would make it,
Give themselves if they could break the forces of the night,
Faithful soldiers of the light.



©1996 Shayne McCormack

Sebastian can now return, the two of them have both held firm,
With their identities confirmed, they know they can the Shadows hold.
Both faithful on the side of right, Delenn the spirit of the light,
While Sheridan with warrior's might will give his all to beat the foe,
A warrior brave and bold.

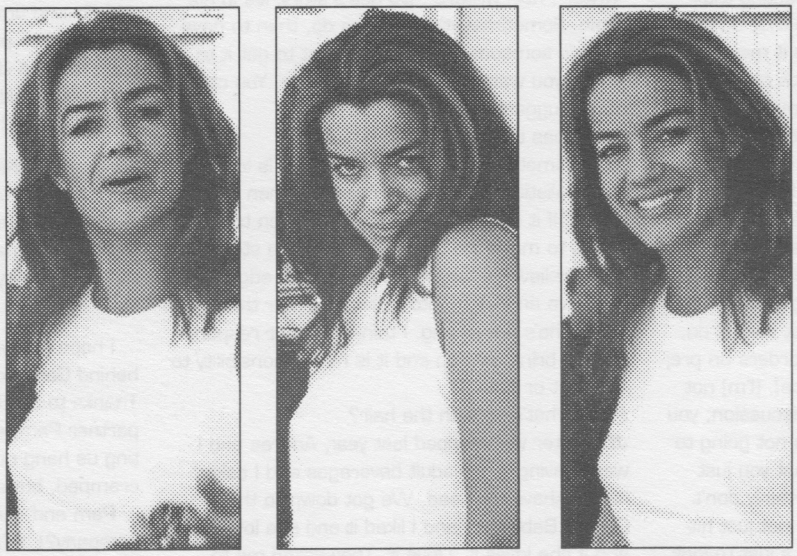
poem by **Donna Edsall**

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION – ONE FAN'S TRIP TO BABYLON 5

The end of August was anything but dull. Stuck at the Minneapolis Airport at 1 am, I'm beginning to seriously question my sanity. The plane was forced to make this unscheduled stop due to technical problems, I'm hungry and tired, and the airline employees are less than helpful. I'm wondering if maybe I should give it all up, go back to Jersey and forget about my B5 visit. . . . At 3 am, just when I'm about to break down, things are starting to look slightly better. I'm promised a next day flight to LAX, I'm given enough airline vouchers to feed a small third world country, and my mood improves dramatically. Maybe this trip is going to turn out OK, after all. . . .

Few days later . . .

I'm glad I didn't give up. We're finally pulling into the parking lot, which looks very normal to me. I see the "sentient xing" sign and no longer doubt if this is the right place. Suddenly I'm having an anxiety attack!!! Calm down Stephanie, no need to be nervous! After a few minutes I know I'm among friends here. Everyone seems to be genuinely happy to see us. As I wait for Jeffrey Willerth (the man behind the curtain) to show me around, I gawk at everything and everybody, and accidentally vandalize Alan Kobayashi's (the resident graphic artist) office by pulling different signs from the storage. I fall in love with the ISN logo and refuse to let go, these big pink letters speak to me. . . .



The many Faces of Claudia Christian. All photos are ©1996 S. Etmanski

Jeffrey shows up just in time to save the ISN sign and a couple of alien beer labels from me. It's time for the grand tour! There's a surprise waiting for me down the hall — Claudia Christian, live and in person, wearing slippers and a night gown, is saying "hi" to me. She explains that she doesn't normally greet her fans dressed like that!!! Hey, I'm not complaining! How many people get to see Claudia in her night gown? Right next to her, Pat Tallman is making funny faces and I hear myself saying something totally dumb! Claudia makes sure we're staying for lunch, then invites us to come and see them work. First, I want to see the rest of the space station!

Jeffrey, being a very patient tour guide that he is, doesn't object when I stick my nose in just about everything. Since it's the first week of filming, some of the sets are still covered up and smell like bug spray, but that doesn't stop me from touching everything. On the White Star I can't help myself, without asking I pull the covers off Sheridan's chair and take a seat. Now, this is heaven! Only the thought of lunch with Pat and Claudia finally convinces me to leave.

In Kosh's quarters, "my quarters" as Jeff says, we admire the peeling paint on the floor. "Liquid nitrogen," Jeff explains, "it wrecks the floor." I stare at him in disbelief; do they actually pour liquid nitrogen to make the fumes in Kosh's room? "Oh, and did you know that I can't even fit through my own door?" he asks. Yep, I knew that.

We go around the rest of the station, then visit Centauri Prime and Z'ha'dum and I realize I'm starved. Outside Claudia is waiting at the table, holding a bag of goodies for me. She introduces me to more people than I can remember, yet everyone seems to know me anyway. Strange, very strange. . . . We have

BABYLON 5 EPISODES

A Day In The Strife (#303)

Incoming transport vehicles are being thoroughly check for weapons before they dock with Babylon 5. John Sheridan and Susan Ivanova hold a meeting with the transport pilots, who are concerned that they will be loosing credits because of the delays.

Narn Councilman Na'Far arrives on the station with his bodyguard Ta'Lon. He announces to Sheridan that he will be replacing "citizen" G'Kar as the Narn leader on B5 and will be returning him to the Narn homeworld. Na'Far explains that when the Centauri took over the disbanded Narn government they created a new one under their control. G'Kar, who is taking sanctuary on the station is the only member of the Kha'Ri who is still free. Na'Far fears that since G'Kar is still in authority on B5 he may be influencing others who may be creating an armed resistance on the Narn homeworld.

Sheridan replies that he does not want to interfere in Narn internal affairs and refuses to help with this matter.

Michael Garibaldi confides to Ivanova that he has checked out Sheridan's files and feels that because of his past experiences he is the only qualified person to take control of the current chaotic situations.

Na'Far visits Londo and fills him in on the conditions of the Narn homeworld: the work farms and construction gangs are under control and the executions continue. Londo gives him permission to visit G'Kar.

After Na'Far leaves Vir expresses to Londo that he is being too heavy-handed with the Narns. Londo tells him that the Narns must be kept in their place so that the Centauri will never have to struggle to get supremacy over them again.

Londo asks a favor of Delenn. He wants permission to send Vir to Minbar to restart the Centauri Diplomatic Mission to Minbar, which had been closed because of trouble with its last envoy. Londo tells her that Vir needs different types of experiences, Delenn realizes that that isn't the true reason. He explains that he has become fond of Vir and would prefer that he was not around to get in his way.

Garibaldi invites Franklin over to dinner. He implies that Franklin may have a stim problem. Franklin gets upset and ensures him that he does not have an addiction to the stimulant.

Ta'Lon speaks with Sheridan and tells him that he has decided to stay on the station and help him.

Babylon 5 makes a first contact with an unidentified alien probe. The ship transmits a message to the station. The probe, which is responsible for finding other intelligent life forms, gives B5 a list of 600 questions to answer. In exchange for answering all questions they will receive cures for

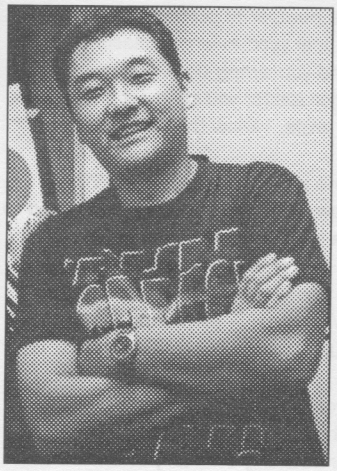
a great time talking about rats, South Africa and Melissa Ethridge! Andreas Katsulas joins us just in time to overhear our conversation about sperm banks and turkey basters (don't even ask!!!) He shakes his head and even in his full Narn make-up he looks totally embarrassed!!! Pat is trying to take some photos of Claudia and me, and can't really figure out my camera. Needless to say, she's not very successful. . . . Oh, those wonderful Kodak™ moments!

After lunch we go to see John Copeland who is eternally patient with me, Douglas Netter stops by to say "hello" and I answer with enough silly things to make a total fool out of myself. I'm certain Mr. Copeland is convinced I have an IQ of a drunken butterfly! Jeff and Mojo suddenly vanish and I happily start exploring by myself. This is even more fun. I meet Jim and Elizabeth, two wonderful souls who run the official fan club. Jim actually remembers my name, which leaves me completely flabbergasted. Is there anyone in this building who didn't hear about me? I wander around, ask dumb questions and disturb people, yet again, everybody smiles and no one seems to mind.

Left: the gates to Babylonian Productions.

Below: the man of MANY signs, Alan Kobayashi, graphic designer.

Right: the REAL Kosh, Jeffrey Willerth, out of his encounter suit.



Mojo reappears and takes me to meet John Iacovelli, who turns out to be another very friendly man. A "Dole for Pineapple" sign catches my attention and without any warning I blind everyone with flash. Mr. Iacovelli can't understand what's so interesting about the wall behind him! I start to play with his paper models and after almost destroying several ships and knocking down a few paper figures, I decide it's time to quietly disappear. Meanwhile Alan, the graphic wizard, who realizes that I will not leave without an ISN logo, is busy printing a personalized sign just for me.

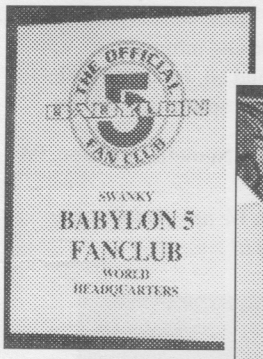
I wander around and end up on the set again. They're shooting a scene in Ivanova's quarters (hey, you ain't getting no spoilers from me!) With an ecstatic expression on my face, I quietly take somebody's chair and watch them work. A smiling stranger hands me a can of Diet Pepsi , brings me some candy and asks me if I'm OK. I'm fine, I'm just tired, it's been a long day. . . .

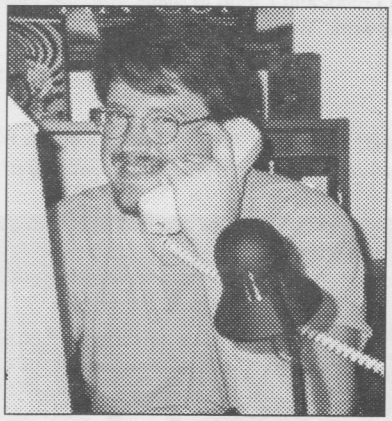
When it's time to leave, I look like a kid after a rampage in a toy store, I'm loaded with gifts and all kinds of goodies (including my very own personal ISN logo.) If this is total bliss, then why do I feel so sad? I don't want to go! Goodbyes are always the hardest. . . .

Later that day my mood improves tremendously when I take pictures of Mel Gibson's footprints in front of the Chinese Theatre. And that night, while watching the final five, all in a row, with a group of about twenty ravenous B5 fans, I realize how very, very lucky I am. . . .

Love + Thonks,

Stephanie Etmanski





Jim Lockett at work at the Official Babylon 5 Fan Club headquarters.

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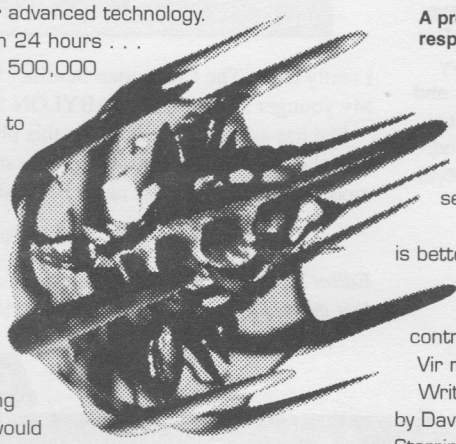
every known form of disease and far advanced technology. And if they don't have answers within 24 hours . . . the station would be annihilated by a 500,000 megaton blast.

Na'Far meets with G'Kar. He tries to convince G'Kar that the Narns must surrender and recover from their wounds, then strike at the Centauri when they are not prepared.

A group of Narns approach Na'Far and accuse him of being a blood-traitor. A fight ensues. G'Kar breaks it up and scolds them. G'Kar is willing to return to the Narn homeworld if it would stop the fighting between the Narns. His surrender would stop the harassment of family members of Narns who are stationed on Babylon 5.

Garibaldi visits G'Kar and warns him that he will most certainly be killed if he returns. G'Kar replies that his fate is in the hands of G'Quon.

With three minutes to spare B5 is still frantically gathering the answers to the questions and begins to feed them to the probe. Sheridan questions



A probe of unknown origin threatens to destroy Babylon 5 if it does not respond to answering its questions.

who this race may be. He feels that the probe may be checking out their intelligence, with intention to destroy any race which may pose a threat to the species that sent it. At 15 seconds he decides not to send the answers. The probe leaves the station. Just as a security bot is sent to investigate the probe it self-destructs.

The Narns on the station decide that G'Kar should not leave. It is better to die for freedom rather then live in the comfort of Centauri "slavery". G'Kar is convinced to stay.

Franklin assures Garibaldi that the stim situation is under control, though he is lying.

Vir reluctantly leaves for Minbar.

Written by J. Michael Straczynski, produced by John Copeland, directed by David J. Eagle, with John C. Flinn III as Director of Photography. Starring Stephen Macht – Na'Far, Marshall Teague – Ta'Lon, Anne Bentancourt – Dr. Gonzales. Joshua Cox – Corwin, Neil Bradely – Narn #1, Mark Hendrickson – Narn #2, Larita Shelby, Med Tech, John St. Ryan – Trouble Maker, Michael Baily Smith – G'Dok.

summary by **Michael Zmuda**

TRANSMISSIONS

It has been confirmed that Turner Network Television has asked for two BABYLON 5 TV movies to accompany Turner's broadcast of the BABYLON 5 series after its run in syndication, (starting in 1998). The movies would be set during the main story arc, with one of them being a prequel. Warner Bros. has also asked for a treatment on a BABYLON 5 sequel. At this time these are all only in the development stage. Following is part of an online message from J. Michael Straczynski regarding the future of the B5 universe:

"All I can say is this:

"That at the time of renewal, a number of parties at WB assumed that this would be our final year, in large measure because PTEN was vanishing, and you simply don't continue to pay out money on an enterprise that no longer exists; you cash out the assets, stop spending money, and start making profit. I know that many people there operated under that assumption.

"Then the later ratings started to come in . . . and people at WB began to notice that our reruns were now doing what our first-runs used to do . . . and gradually those same people began to say much the opposite. I can say that, as recently as last week, WB was asking about a fifth year, and what we would do. As of 24 hours ago, we've been in considerable negotiations for 2 two hour original movies for TNT set during the arc, and WB is looking at the possibility of a sequel . . . which would, in theory, be set up in part during a fifth year.

"So you've got some who say there won't be a fifth year, some who say there might be a fifth year, and some who say there *will* be a fifth year.

"Through all this, I am constructing and honing the story to ensure that it will get through to its conclusion."

On a recent episode of the *Sci-Fi Vortex* John Copeland confirmed that JMS will be writing all episodes for season four of BABYLON 5.

Following are a season four titles: #405 – "The Long Night"; #406 – "Into The Fire"; #407 – "Epiphanies"; #408 – "The Illusion Of Truth".

JMS's scriptwriting books, titled "The (Even More!) Complete Book of ScriptWriting", should now be available through most bookstores. It is supposed to contain an entire B5 script as an example.

The second B5 soundtrack, called "Babylon 5: Messages from Earth", should be released next month.

The next B5 novel, titled "The Shadow Within", by Jeane Cavelos, won't be out until next year.

A B5 tech manual will be published in the UK by Boxtree.

The B5 comic book is tentatively planned to be done by Titan in the UK, with possibly four books done per year to start. They would then be reprinted in the US by DC Comics.

Just incase you have ever wondered about the origin of ***The Centaurian Sentinel's*** name and logo here is a brief history. The name of the newsletter was created in March 1994. At that time in the series the Centauri still appeared as bacchantic aliens, which explains why the Centauri were picked as our mascot. This is reflected in the smiling head we used in our early masthead. As an afterthought the first part of the title might have been more appropriately change to ***Centauri***, but ***Centaurian*** stuck. The ***Sentinel*** part of the name is in honor of Arthur C. Clarke's short story "The Sentinel", which eventually became the foundation for the movie and novel *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The newsletter's design was created to be a publication that one might find on the shelf of a Zocalo newsstand; a companion to *Universe Today*.

Mykl

EPISODE SCHEDULE For United States: (R=repeat)

Week Of	Prod#	Title
10/28	322	Z'ha'dum
11/04	401	The Hour Of The Wolf
11/11	402	What Ever Happened To Mr. Garibaldi?
11/18	403	The Summoning
11/25	404	Falling Toward Apotheosis

GOLD CHANNEL

I wanted to take a few moments and express my gratitude to you and your fellow Sentinels.

Each month you provide all of us with a personalized and in-depth look into the world of BABYLON 5, and your efforts and demonstrations of loyalty to the show and to your fellow fans should be commended. I am very grateful of your willingness to share your experiences with us. In each issue of ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** I learn more about BABYLON 5 and its many components than I do from any glossy newsstand magazine.

The interviews provide candid insights that allow us to see what drives the extraordinary people involved with BABYLON 5, and you give us a well rounded view – sharing your talks with not only the actors but also those who work so diligently behind the scenes.

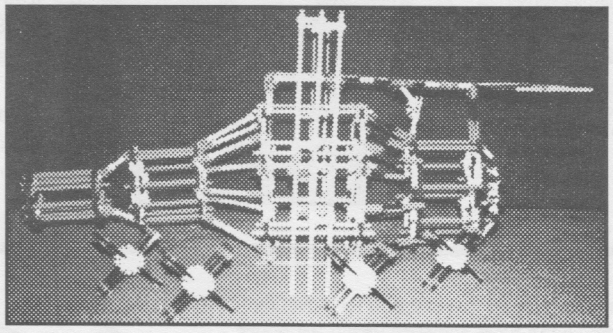
Your "Transmissions" section is also a vital link between the fans and our show of shows. It was here, in ***The Centaurian Sentinel***, that I first learned BABYLON 5 would be renewed. "Transmissions" gives us a glimpse into the current goings on with news from the net that otherwise I would not have access to.

Even the episode schedule is quite handy, helping me to keep track of what I miss. Like many other BABYLON 5 devotees, I'm waging my own battle with the local carrier who loves to bounce B5 around like a ping pong ball. I write letters, they play musical programming. Has anyone else experienced the blasphemy of having BABYLON 5 preempted by a Rogaine infomercial?!

The Centaurian Sentinel is the most enjoyable and informative publication I read, and I want to thank you, one and all, for doing such an excellent work. You are another bright beacon in space, fighting the good fight.

Susan Nemeth, Johnston, PA

Editor's reply*: Thanks for the great compliments. We are glad that you enjoy the newsletter so much – we enjoy creating it!*



I really enjoy The Centaurian Sentinel. It is informative and fun to read. My younger sister enjoys BABYLON 5 and the newsletter as well.

She has asked me to send you this photo for the newsletter. It is a model of the space station with some starfurys in front. She built the model out of K'Nex. Her name is Candy Gracyus.

Fellow B5 Fan, **Wendy Rosas**, Worth, IL

Editor's reply*: Cool work! Thanks for sharing your B5 model with us. You guys might have a future in designing Earth Alliance ships.*

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PERSONALS

JOHNNY COMELATELY – LOVE & MISS YOU ENORMOUSLY. Reconciliation anytime – your terms. Please forgive. I'll never forget you. Connie, New York.

WANTED

WANTED: THE COOLEST WEB SITE ADDRESSES FOR B5 INFO. Please e-mail CeSpaceMuz@aol.com .